Annual Report 1982

Saskatchewan Natural Products Marketing Council

Duties of Council

The Natural Product Marketing Council duties as outlined in section 7 of The Natural Products Marketing Act, R.S.S. 1978, are as follows:

"The Council shall:

(a) Advise the Minister on all matters relating to the establishment and operation of boards, commissions, and any agencies empowered to act under this Act;

(b) Be responsible to the Minister for the operation and administration of boards and commissions and for that purpose, shall make and enforce such regulations as may from time-to-time be approved by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council;

(c) Conduct or supervise votes on marketing plans as required by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council or the Minister; and

(d) Perform such other duties relating to the marketing of natural products as the Minister may require."

March 15, 1983

The Honourable Eric Berntson
Minister of Agriculture
Legislature of Saskatchewan
REGINA, Saskatchewan
S4S OB1

Dear Mr. Berntson:

In accordance with Section 10 of The Natural Products Marketing Act, I submit herewith the Annual Report of the Natural Products Marketing Council for 1982.

Yours sincerely

F. Switzer, Chairman
Natural Products
Marketing Council

Saskatchewan Natural Products Marketing Council

Members

(as of December 31, 1982)

Mr. Fred Switzer, Chairman, Regina

Mr. Ken Rosaasen, Vice-Chairman, Saskatoon

Mr. J.F. Stueck, Balcarres

Mr. Dave Wiens, Waldheim

Mr. Al Mulhern, Meyronne

Mr. Fred Stokes, Dubuc

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Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Activities of the Natural Products Marketing Council Council in 1982	2
Supervision of Marketing Boards and Commissions	2
Changes to Market Orders	3
New Marketing Plans Proposed	4
Appeals Under the Act	4
Review of Marketing Legislation and Council Policy	6
Other Activities	7
Saskatchewan Chicken Marketing Board	8
Saskatchewan Commercial Egg Producers' Marketing Board	11
Saskatchewan Turkey Producers' Marketing Board	13
Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission	15
Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission	20
Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission	22
National Agencies	24

Introduction

In 1982, the Natural Products Marketing Council was responsible to the Minister of Agriculture for the operation and administration of the following marketing boards and commissions under the Natural Products Marketing Act:

The Saskatchewan Chicken Marketing Board

The Saskatchewan Commercial Egg Producers' Marketing Board

The Saskatchewan Turkey Producers' Marketing Board

The Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission

The Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission

The Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission

The Council reports that these Boards and Commissions are continuing to function according to their regulations and marketing plans under the Natural Products Marketing Act.

During 1982, a number of appeals were received from persons affected by marketing board regulations. As a result, Council activities centered on preparation for appeal proceedings, including an evaluation of Council procedures upon appeal. Other Council activities focused on their supervisory role and responsibilities with respect to the boards and commissions.

Council's role is to ensure that marketing boards and commissions operate according to the Natural Products Marketing Act and its Regulations. Council is committed to a conciliatory approach for resolving disputes which arise in the administration of marketing plans. It is only when a breakdown in negotiations occurs that the Council needs to become involved in an appeal hearing. It is Council's intention to have the boards and commissions develop policies so that all participants in the industry are aware of the procedures that must be dealt with.

Activities of the Natural Products Marketing Council in 1982

Supervison of Marketing Boards and Commissions

Under the terms of the Natural Products Marketing Act, Council is responsible for the operation and administration of marketing boards and commissions. Council fulfilled this responsibility as follows:

1. The minutes of meetings of boards and commissions were reviewed at Council meetings.

2. Council members or staff attended meetings of boards and commissions and prepared reports for review at Council meetings.

3. Council met with the members of boards and commissions to discuss the operation of these agencies.

4. Council members attended annual, general and regional producer meetings of boards and commissions.

5. Council approved the appointment of auditors for commissions and reviewed the yearly financial statements of boards and commissions.

CHANGES TO MARKET ORDERS

Marketing boards and commissions implement programs through the use of Market Orders which must be approved by Council. In 1982, Market Orders were approved and gazetted as follows:

The Saskatchewan Chicken Marketing Board

Order No 18/82 - Out of Province Marketings
Approved - December 1, 1981
Gazetted - December 31, 1981
Effective - January 4, 1982
Purpose - Chicken produced in Saskatchewan can only be processed outside of Saskatchewan with Chicken Board approval.

Order No. 19/82 - Penalties
Approved - April 30, 1982
Gazetted - May 21, 1982
Effective - June 1, 1982
Purpose - Provides monetary penalties for marketing chicken at average weights outside specified weight ranges, or in excess of quota allocation, or without a license or quota allocation.

Order No. 20/82 - Producer Minimum Prices
Approved - April 30, 1982
Gazetted - May 21, 1982
Effective - June 1, 1982
Purpose - Provides for setting of minimum prices for chicken produced and marketed in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission

Order No. 25/82 - Fees and Levies
Approved - January 26, 1982
Gazetted - February 5, 1982
Effective - February 15, 1982
Purpose - To provide for payment of levies on hogs marketed in Saskatchewan of up to one percent ad valorum, and payment of license fees by assembly yards, truckers and processors.

The remaining marketing boards and commissions had no changes to their Market Orders in 1982.

NEW MARKETING PLANS PROPOSED IN 1982

Under Section 12, of the Natural Products Marketing Act, groups of producers may submit proposals for new marketing plans to the Minister of Agriculture. During 1982 groups of persons producing hogs, pulse crops and hatching eggs submitted proposals for marketing boards to the Minister. In accordance with the provisions of the Act respecting new plans, the Minister of Agriculture referred the proposals to Council for their consideration. The proposed plans were reviewed by Council on December 20, 1982, which is the first step required to establish a new plan. Council has suggested a number of technical changes to the plans to clarify intent and has requested further information on certain parts of the plans.

The Hog Plan will be discussed at a series of regional meetings of hog producers in 1983, and Council will then decide whether to hold public hearings on the proposed plan.

The Pulse Crop Plan was discussed at several producer meetings during 1981 and 1982 and public hearings may also be held on this proposal.

The Broiler Egg Hatching Plan will be discussed in early 1983 with representatives of the Saskatchewan Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Association to ascertain the reasons for the plan. At the year-end, Council had not recommended to the Minister of Agriculture whether producer votes should be held on the question of establishment of the proposed plans.

APPEALS UNDER THE ACT

Sections 19 and 25 of the Act provide that Council should hear appeals from persons who feel aggrieved by acts or omissions of boards and commissions. During 1982 appeals or business related to appeals was concluded as follows:

1. Under the Saskatchewan Chicken Marketing Board, an appeal was received from processors respecting the level of prices fixed by the Board. Council recognized its obligations to accept this appeal but felt that further negotiations between the parties might resolve the issue. For this reason Council convened two meetings of chicken producers to discuss the issue. Following these meetings further negotiations were held between the Board and the processors resulting in an agreement on price levels. No further appeal procedures were required.

2. Under the Saskatchewan Commercial Egg Producers' Marketing Board, an appeal was received from two unlicensed egg producers regarding fines assessed by the Board for production of eggs without a license. Council heard the appeal and decided that the appellants should be granted a permit to produce eggs on the basis of historical production rights and based on the judgement that Egg Board regulations did not clearly prohibit the appellants'type of production unit. This decision was appealed by the Board and overturned by the courts on the basis that Council did not correctly interpret the regulations issued by the Board respecting partnerships of unlicensed producers.

3. Under the Saskatchewan Commercial Egg Producers' Marketing Board an appeal was received from a hatchery egg producer regarding the conversion of egg quotas to permits. Council referred the matter to the Conciliation Committee of the Egg Board which met with the appellant. The Board is considering changes to regulations which may resolve this type of dispute. The producer felt the information provided by the Board was sufficient and adequate and thus the complaint was resolved.

4. Under the Saskatchewan Commercial Egg Producers' Marketing Board a complaint was received from an egg producer regarding quota allocation procedures. The matter was referred to the Board for investigation. The producer felt the information provided by the Board was sufficient and adequate and thus the complaint was resolved.

5. Under the Saskatchewan Commercial Egg Producers Marketing Board a 1981 Council appeal decision was investigated by the Saskatchewan Ombudsman. The appeal dealt with the issue of an underage person being removed from the quota waiting list. After hearing the appeal, Council ordered the Board to return the person's name to his former position on the quota waiting list. A complaint was filed with the Saskatchewan Ombudsman by the person's father arguing that his other 3 children's names should also be restored to the quota waiting list, even though they had not appealed to Council. After a review by the Saskatchewan Ombudsman of the appeal procedures, it was determined that the appeal decision was consistent with the requirements of the Natural Products Marketing Act and it's Regulations.

REVIEW OF MARKETING LEGISLATION AND COUNCIL POLICY

The Legislative Review Committee, a joint committee of Council, boards and commissions concluded its work in 1982. This committee was established in response to a major brief presented to Council in 1981 by the Egg, Chicken and Turkey Boards. The purpose of the Committee was to review the legislative basis for supervision of boards and commissions by Council and to recommend changes to legislation or regulations which would increase co-operation between Council, boards and commissions.

The committee recommended as follows:

1. With respect to proposed Market Orders, that boards and commissions follow a standard procedure for providing background information, that orders be more general, that represenatives be present when orders are reviewed by Council, that Council respond quickly to proposed orders, and that Council members make every effort to be fully aware of reasons for new orders by attendance at board and commission meetings on a regular basis.

2. With respect to appeal procedures, that appellants meet with Conciliation Committees prior to formal appeal hearings, and that procedures for appeals be included in regulations issued under the Act providing for written notice of appeals, notification of nature of grievances, dates of matter appealed, steps taken to resolve appeals, distribution of correspondence related to the appeal, consultation prior to fixing date of appeal and provision for legal representation at appeals.

3. Regulation No. 301/77 should be amended to provide for:

   (a) More exact definitions section;

   (b) Boards and commissions shall have sole responsibility for administration and operation of their plans;

   (c) Orders of commissions to be approved by Council;

   (d) Vacancies on Board of Directors shall be filled by remaining board members;

   (e) Minutes of boards and commissions shall be signed by Chairman and Secretary and filed with Council;

(f) Business may be conducted by telephone conference call.

These recommendations will be reviewed by Council in 1983, and changes recommended where deemed appropriate.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Council continued to receive numerous requests for information on marketing boards and commissions. Copies of the Act, and all marketing plans, orders and regulations were made available to individuals and groups interested in the activities of marketing agencies in Saskatchewan.

In 1982, the Council Chairman addressed the annual general meeting of each of the marketing boards. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern and related Council policies.

THE SASKATCHEWAN CHICKEN MARKETING BOARD

The 1982 Directors of the Saskatchewan Chicken Marketing Board were as follows:

Mr. Phil Stilborn, Chairman, Balcarres

Mr. Percy Naumetz, Vice-Chairman, Fort Qu'Appelle

Mr. Charles Stueck, Director, Abernethy

Mr. John Reddekopp, Director, Dalmeny

Mr. Ray Hayko, Director, Regina

Mr. Tony Greaves, Manager, Regina

Producer Numbers

There were 63 licences issued to 62 growers for the start of 1982 (one grower had two locations licensed separately). By the end of 1982, due to quota transfers there were 63 individual growers, six of whom held only roaster or cornish hen quota or both.

Distribution of Quota Holdings

Broiler Quota Size	Jan 1, 1982	Jan 1, 1983
Roasters or Cornish Hens only	6	6
1,000 to 9,999	0	2
10,000 to 14,999	26	23
15,000 to 19,999	8	9
20,000 to 29,999	6	8
30,000 to 39,999	8	8
40,000 birds and more	9	9
Total Registered Broiler Growers	63	63

The quota base is presently 1.4 million head/cycle with five cycles per year.

Production & Marketing

The following table gives a historical record of the number of registered producers along with their production in kilograms and the gross dollar value of that production to the grower:

Year	Number of Registered Producers	Liveweight Production (000's kg to producer)	$ Value of Production
1975	67	8,690	6,750,000
1976	68	9,619	7,500,000
1977	66	9,256	7,355,000
1978	65	8,805	7,380,000
1979	65	11,225	10,257,000
1980	61	10,873	11,766,000
1981	63	11,775	12,984,000
1982	63	10,996	12,082,177

Summary of Production

Liveweight production by registered producers is summarized in the table below for 1982 (1981 in brackets).

	Birds	Kilograms	Average Weight/kg
Broilers	6,174,471(6,454,130)	10,597,321(10,934,333)	1.72(1.69)
Live Exports	25,589(274,642)	54,693(502,270)	2.14(1.83)
Total Broilers	6,200,060(6,728,772)	10,652,013(11,436,603)	1.72(1.70)
Roasters	100,553(98,220)	306,165(296,937)	3.04(3.02)
Farm Kill	11,480(10,348)	36,451(32,857)	3.18(3.18)
Total	112,033(108,568)	342,616(329,794)	3.06(3.04)
Cornish	Nil(11,876)	Nil(9,259)	(0.78)
Total	6,312,093(6,849,216)	10,994,630(11,775,656)	1.74(1.72)

Prices in 1982

Using the cost of production formula approved by the National Farm Products Marketing Council, at the start of 1982 Saskatchewan growers had costs totalling 121.98 cents per kilogram. By year-end the same formula gave costs as 118.77 cents per kilogram, 3.21 cents per kilogram down.

During this same period the price for 3.8 pound(1.724 kg) birds reduced from 111.33¢/kg to 102.00/kg, a drop of 9.33¢/kg, a reduction in net returns of 6.12¢/kg (2.78¢/lb).

The grower price was in dispute twice during the year, once in January/February and again in late July and August. Both were settled by a compromise between processors and board after discussions with Council. In neither case did the Council have to rule on the appeal.

Quota and Storage Stocks

Provincial stocks have decreased during the year from 711,000 kilograms January 1, 1982 to 464,000 kg December 31, 1982, down 247,000 kilograms. This is a more comfortable position, but was attained only by selling on a very depressed market. It almost matches the 285,000 kilogram increase in stocks during 1981.

Beside the need to reduce stocks in 1982, the board had to face the 511,000 kilogram penalty assessed against Saskatchewean for estimated over-production in 1981. Consequently, the 1982 quotas never exceeded 95% and went as low as 85%, compared to almost ten straight months at 100% in 1980 and 1981.

Financial Affairs

The board deduction from growers flock proceeds remains unchanged at 3/8 cent per pound (0.827¢/kg) plus the Chicken Agency levy of .06¢/lb or a total of 0.435¢.lb, 0.959 ¢/kg. This rate of provincial deduction has been in effect since March 1974. The provincial levy produced operating funds of $89,965.00, compared to $97,434.00 in 1981. The total levy remittances to the national agency totalled $14,377.00.

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture continued to provide "core funding" for the grower extension program operated for the three "feather boards" by staff of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Poultry Science Department of the University of Saskatchewan. Government investment totalled $71,500 and the Chicken Board share of the funding amounted to $5,000.00.

THE SASKATCHEWAN COMMERCIAL EGG PRODUCERS' MARKETING BOARD

The Directors of the Saskatchewan Commercial Egg Producers' Marketing Board in 1982 were:

Mrs. Linda Boxall, Chairman, Regina

Mr. Stanley Fehr, Vice-Chairman, Hague

Mr. Ted Wiens, Director, Regina

Mr. Brian Reimer, Director, Eston

Mr. Harry Waddell, Director, Humboldt

Mr. John Entz, Director, Maple Creek

Mr. Everett Ritson, Manager, Regina

Production and Marketing

The following table gives a historical record of the number of registered producers, along with their marketings and value of those marketings:

Year	Producers	Marketed (million dozen)	Value of Marketings ($ million)
1978	124	11.94	7.98
1979	104	12.21	8.89
1980	116	13.80	10.83
1981	104	14.27	12.70
1982	104	14.19	12.65

The volumes marketed by licensed producers decreased to 14,185,172 dozen eggs compared to 14,266,622 dozen in 1981. The average producer price for all grades of eggs was 89 cents per dozen, with total marketings valued at $12.65 million. The lower marketings were in response to a 5.02% reduction in quota allocation which occurred in November, 1981.

Quota Allocation

The total provincial layer quota has remained at 734,233 layers since November 1, 1981. The following table shows changes in quota allocations by flock size in 1982:

Flock Size	No. of Producers Jan. 1, 1981	Jan. 1, 1982
300- 500	5	3
501- 1,000	17	13
1,001- 3,000	25	22
3,001- 5,000	28	27
5,001-10,000	19	19
10,000 and over	22	20
	116	104

Promotion Activities

In 1982, the Egg Board sponsored promotion projects at the Canadian Western Agribition, and several T.V. and mall demonstrations. The Board also sponsored a provincial advertising campaign to supplement the C.E.M.A. national egg promotion project.

Producer Extension Program

The Board continued to participate in a joint project between the Poultry Marketing Boards, the Provincial Government and the University of Saskatchewan to improve the production of Saskatchewan eggs. A veterinarian and a research scientist have been hired to assist poultry producers with production and disease problems.

THE SASKATCHEWAN TURKEY PRODUCERS' MARKETING BOARD

The Directors of the Saskatchewan Turkey Producers' Marketing Board in 1982 were as follows:

Mr. Jack Rynsburger, Chairman, Melville

Mr. Fred Kurulak, Vice-Chairman, Biggar

Mr. Dennis Billo, Director, Bruno

Mr. Perry Kirkham, Director, Saltcoats

Mr. Don Teichrob, Director, Saskatoon

Mr. Fred Longstaff, Manager, Regina

Production and Marketing

The following table gives a historical account of registered producers, along with their production and the value of production:

Year	Producers	Production (tonnes evisc.)	Value of Production (000's of $)
1978	26	3 636	4,800
1979	25	3 892	4,800
1980	25	3 814	5,510
1981	26	3 382	5,800
1982	22	3 783	6,617

In 1982 total marketings by Saskatchewan producers was 3,783,119 Kg. with a total value of $6,617,497.00. Average producer price in 1982 was $1.44 per Kg. eviscerated.

The disposition of marketings on an eviscerated basis are shown in the following table:

		Kilograms	%
In Province	- Sask.	2,120,003	56
Out-of-Province	- Alberta	1,094,105	29
	- Manitoba	569,001	15
Total Out-of-Province		1,663,116	
Total Live Marketings in 1982		3,783,119	100

Prices and Production Costs

Average producer price was $1.44 per Kg. in 1982. Saskatchewan was non-competitive with Manitoba and Ontario during parts of 1982 due to higher feed costs of approximately 2.7¢ per kg of live turkey.

Efficient producers realized some return on investment during the latter half of 1982 when feed prices dropped to approximately $270.00 per tonne.

Market Trends in 1982

The consumption of turkey in Canada was reduced in 1982 due to:

1. Large supplies of chicken products which compete directly with turkey;

2. Competition from other meats; and

3. The general down trend in the Canadian economy.

The Board expects turkey production to be reduced by approximately 3% in 1983 due to the high level of inventories which prevailed at the end of 1982.

Any increased consumption in 1983 will be dependent upon sales of further processed turkey products through institutions and fast food outlets. The Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency will increase promotion in these markets in 1983.

In 1982 the Turkey Board maintained a line of credit to finance the purchasing and selling of turkey products which are processed in Saskatchewan. The maintenance of a viable processing facility for poultry products in Saskatchewan remains a major objective of the Board.

THE SASKATCHEWAN HOG MARKETING COMMISSION

The Directors of the Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission in 1982 were:

Mr. Don MacKay, Chairman (Jan-Aug), Aberdeen

Mr. Garth Larsen, Vice-Chairman, Semans

Mr. Jim Willet, Director (Jan-July), Pleasantdale

Mr. Ken Jamieson, Director, Battleford

Mr. Lavern Voldeng, Director, Naicam

Mr. Jim Morris, General Manager, Saskatoon

Market Review - 1982

The Commission had a successful marketing year in 1982. In April the Commission completed its largest sale to the Japanese market, 22,770 hogs (2,161,830 pounds) valued at $3.8 million. Liveweight sales to the U.S. market were the largest ever totalling 53,294 head or 9.1 percent of total 1982 production. The Sow Program marketed a total of 3,538 sows through Moose Jaw Packers.

After several years of poor returns, 1982 was a reasonably successful year. The prolonged low price period up to 1982 reduced the number of active producers in Saskatchewan. In 1979, when Saskatchewan last experienced an increase in production, there were 8,350 units marketing hogs compared to 7,081 in 1981 and 4,574 in 1982.

In 1981, Saskatchewan produced 633,177 hogs compared to 630,200 in 1982. At present, 400 producers account for half of Saskatchewan's production.

In 1982 the average carcass weight increased to 171.8 pounds from 167.3 in 1981 enabling the Commission to market hogs more effectively in the United States. The commission has emphasized the need for production of heavier hogs to serve customers in South Dakota, Iowa and Washington. The contract to supply frozen, trimmed primal cuts to Japan is also dependent on the supply of heavier hog carcasses.

Other quality factors were up in 1982. The average index rose from 101.7 in 1981 to 101.97 in 1982. The number of hogs indexing 102 or over rose 3 1/2 percent to 69.12.

Operation Highlights in 1982

February - Fifteen regional meetings were held throughout the province. Major topics of discussion were packing plant ownership, proposed changeover to a producer-elected board, the light hog problem and federal stabilization.

March - One backfat measurement system introduced.

May - S.H.M.C. computer analysis of grading results reveals Saskatchewan average index down approximately one-half an index point following introduction of one backfat measurement system.

June - In-transit losses up significantly because of severe weather conditions. Losses up to 3.01 per thousand compared to 2.36 experienced during the same period of 1981.

- After five months of observation and analysis, Saskatchewan average index down .7 of an index point following implementation of one backfat measurement system.

- Upgrading of St. Gregor Central Assembly Yard underway.

December - S.H.M.C. marketing levy increased to .95 percent of gross value. Central Yard Assembly and transportation rates increased an average of 5 percent.

The following table provides a comparison of 1982 and 1981 marketing information:

	1982	1981
Total hogs sold (Saskatchewan origin)	$ 630,218	$ 633,177
Active production units	4,574	7,081
Gross paid to producers	84,255,059.18	76,080,424.12
Grading Highlights		
Average index (excluding 67's)	101.97	101.7
% hogs grading 102 and over	69.12	65.6
Average hog weight, dressed, pounds	171.8	167.3
Price Highlights		
Average hog price per cwt., dressed	$81.51	$67.02
Boar Sales		
Number sold	1,775	1,523
Total value	$369,782.18	$230,633.88

S.H.M.C. live boar export program continued to grow in 1982 with volume up 17.3 percent compared to 1981. The average price improved from 29.59 cents per pound live, in 1981 to 38.26 cents per pound, live, in 1982, reflecting both the bouyant market and the capacity of this marketing technique to improve producer returns.

Average Monthly Hog Prices, 1982
Dollars per Hundredweight, Dressed, Index 100

Month	Sask.	Alta.	Man.	Toronto	Omaha
January	64.21	64.95	65.02	68.77	46.79
February	67.40	68.32	67.37	69.38	50.65
March	72.16	72.87	71.56	74.56	50.03
April	76.78	77.01	76.68	80.08	52.50
May	88.02	89.08	87.02	90.08	58.71
June	91.69	92.34	91.25	94.30	60.02
July	90.43	90.74	90.99	93.41	60.44
August	93.96	95.85	93.71	96.77	63.62
September	93.08	95.29	92.39	95.49	63.57
October	85.30	86.67	84.36	87.79	57.53
November	76.46	77.75	75.20	79.89	54.82
December	78.65	79.99	78.09	82.39	56.51

Marketing Forecast

The Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission anticipates marketings of approximately 600,000 hogs in 1983. The average price for the year is expected to range from $77.50 to $82.50 per hundredweight, dressed, index 100.

Saskatchewan Pork Production Committee

The role of the Pork Production Committee is to provide practical, farm-oriented ideas and advice on pork production research and programs. The Committee has one member on the Prairie Swine Centre Board of directors to provide producer input into research activities.

The Committee's major research project in 1982 was a study of the economics of raising hogs to heavier weights. The study concluded that raising hogs to heavier weights is probably economically practical but this is offset by the distinct disadvantage of the current grading system. Thus, the Hog Commission proceeded to obtain changes to the grading system by proposing to eliminate discounts on some of the heavier grades.

Research currently being conducted at the Prairie Swine Centre includes:

- The relationship of biotin levels to reproduction
- Management for earlier breeding of gilts and productivity
- Feet and leg problems in sows and gilts
- Heat recovery systems and ventilation
- Solar energy as a heat source
- Effects of swine manure on cereal and forage yields
- Health management systems
- Grain protein ratios for pigs (economics of wheat in swine diets)

In addition to research, the Committee also sponsors and organizes swine production seminars, displays and meetings. The most successful of these was the Sixth Annual Swine Symposium held in November in Saskatoon. It was rated as one of the best in terms of attendance and content. In June of 1982, the Committee assisted in sponsoring a swine AI course at the University of Saskatchewan. In addition, the P.P.C. assisted in a number of producer meetings dealing with production in various parts of the province.

In the area of producer information, the P.P.C. sponsored Semi-Annual Sales Review was improved with the addition of a quarterly review of gradings by weight class. This feature enables producers to compare grading results under the two and one backfat measuring systems.

Another P.P.C. project is its involvement with the University Burn Unit. Three thousand dollars was donated to the unit in 1982 for the purchase of porcine skin used to treat burn victims. The money was raised through the sale of Saskatchewan Pork caps.

Saskatchewan Pork Council

The Council undertook a number of promotional activities in 1982, the largest of which was the "Have a Taste...Put Pork on Your Fork, Anytime" campaign in October. Other promotional activities during the year include:

- A direct mail campaign during National Nutrition Month to update the medical profession, hospital dietary departments and nursing homes on the nutritional aspects of pork and pork's role in the food service industry;

- The Council participated with Canada Safeway stores throughout the province to present to the public the "Take Home a Taste of Saskatchewan" program. Displays focused on fresh pork and variety meats;

- The Home Economics Consultant is an active member of the Saskatchewan Pork Pushers Association, a pork promotion organization formed in March, 1982;

- The Pork Council operated food booths at Swine Design, the Farm Progress Show and Agribition. In addition, the Council and the Egg Producers Board joined to operate the Chuckwagon Breakfast booth at Agribition.

The Council presented pork displays at the Farm Progress Show and Mexabition as well as providing menu consultation for the Saskatchewan Swine Symposium.

Pork report, a pork "updater" is published five times a year and distributed to home economists, teachers and related professionals. In addition, the Council provides recipes and articles for the Prairie Pork Promotor column in the Western Hog Journal. A number of new recipe booklets and pamphlets were also developed.

THE SASKATCHEWAN SHEEP AND WOOL MARKETING COMMISSION

The Directors of the Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission for 1982 were:

Mr. George Tosh, Chairman, Harris

Mr. Russell Simpson, Vice-Chairman, Tompkins

Mr. Dale Donald, Director, Rockhaven

Mr. Warner Shrader, Director, Foam Lake

Mrs. Lyn Steuart, Director, Blaine Lake

Mr. Jim Koal, General Manager, Saskatoon

The following provides a summary of the marketings of the Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission in 1982 compared with 1981 and 1980:

	1982	1981	1980
No. of Lambs Marketed	12,183	9,774	7,880
Average Gross Value per Head	$57.36	$57.26	$61.21
Average Selling Cost per Head	5.12	5.39	6.05
No. of Sheep Marketed	2,063	1,594	1,747
Average Gross Value per Head	$31.39	$37.74	$51.80
Average Selling Cost per Head	5.41	4.79	15.21
Total No. of Sheep and Lambs Marketed	14,246	11,368	9,627
Total Gross Value	$763,934.52	$619,809.00	$572,829.12
Total Selling Cost	73,544.69	60,302.09	74,274.49
Average Selling Cost per Head	5.16	5.30	7.72

The number of sheep and lambs marketed through the Commission increased by 25% in 1982. Marketings at the Lambco plant at Innisfail, Alberta were above normal during July, 1982, and some overweight lambs were sold in South Dakota. During 1982 a greater portion of lambs were marketed through Canada Packers in Winnipeg.

Lamb prices were relatively unchanged in 1982 and may trigger a payment under the Federal Stabilization Program.

Most Saskatchewan lambs were marketed through the Lambco plant in 1982. Producers continued to express a desire to slaughter more lambs in Saskatchewan and to increase the supply of fresh lamb on the local retail market.

Stabilization

The Commission continued to promote the need for a stabilization scheme for the sheep industry. The Department of Agriculture and the Commission will co-operate in future to establish realistic costs of production data for sheep. The Commission surveyed 30 Saskatchewan producers in 1982 to obtain cost of production information.

Sheepman's Supplies

This service is supplied by the Commission in co-operation with the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers. The commission has a store display area adjoining the secretary's area. The supplies offered cover such needs as supplies relating to health control, breeding and lambing. Approximately 60% of the sales are made up of mail order.

Government Assistance

The Commission received an administrative grant of $75,670.00 from the Sasktchewan Department of Agriculture to reduce budget deficits for 1982-83. This is a $25,670.00 increase over 1981 and was used to offset the cost of the Sheepman's Supplies which were being supplied by the Wool Growers on a short term consignment basis.

SASKATCHEWAN VEGETABLE MARKETING COMMISSION

The Directors of the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission in 1982 were:

Mr. Harry Meyers, Chairman, Outlook

Mr. William Childerhose, Vice-Chairman, Outlook

Mr. Eugene Johns, Director, Henribourg

Mr. Don Dabbs, Director, Saskatoon

Mr. Carl Larsen, Director, Radville

Mr. Glenn Annand, Secretary-Manager, Outlook

Producer Numbers

During 1982 there were 65 vegetable growers registered with the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission compared to 76 in 1981. The reduction in numbers is due to several small growers producing less than two acres and some not producing at all.

Production Trends

Planted acreage increased in 1982 to 3,257 acres of which 2,597 were planted for commercial sales and 660 acres planted for market garden and farmers' market sales. Mixed weather conditions gave exceptional yields in some areas and disappointing yields in others. A late spring snowfall reduced plant emergence in the Southern areas. Good rains during the summer complemented irrigation watering and crop production. An early frost and wet fall reduced crop yields and quality in some areas.

Information Services

The Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission continues to provide a regular information newsletter on a subscription basis of $3.00 per vegetable acre. The newsletter includes suggested minimum prices for produce sales by growers, market information and trends in the produce markets, agronomic information, notices and reports of meetings and tours, equipment sales advertisements, and other miscellaneous information of interest to vegetable producers. The newsletter was subscribed to by 33 growers representing 2,320 acres. A high percentage of the commercial growers use this service.

The Commission receives many inquiries every month from people interested in getting into the business of vegetable production. This type of information service has been very helpful to new growers because a better understanding of the constraints and risks involved in vegetable production can be obtained before actual production begins.

Marketing Service

The Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission continued to offer its voluntary marketing service to producers. Use of this service is limited as most established producers prefer direct contact with wholesale buyers. New producers or producers expanding into new markets use the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission's marketing service to develop these markets.

Marketings for 1982

Vegetable	Quantity (Pounds)	Value ($)	Average Price ($/lb.)
Potatoes	2,806,660	304,513.00	.1085
Cabbage	63,400	7,514.00	.1185
Other	13,250	1,927.50	.1455

Saskatchewan Vegetable Industry Study - Garven Report

The study of the Saskatchewan Vegetable Industry by S. Garven was released in February of 1982. The report gave a very thorough coverage of the present state of the industry and proposed some possible avenues of development.

Three meetings with vegetable growers were held to discuss recommendations specific to producers. Several meetings have been held to discuss the provincial government's role in development of the vegetable industry. Implementation of the recommendations has been slow due to the absence of two directors on the Saskatchewan Vegetable Commission and the need for a new administration to develop policies related to vegetable production.

Producer support for the recommended development plan was mixed but the general consensus was that changes in the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission were necessary if certain concerns were to be resolved. Grower concerns included market stability, increased promotion and identification of local produce, increased research, stability of Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission funding, proportional funding arrangement by all growers and government, and election of directors rather than appointment.

NATIONAL AGENCIES

During 1982, no Signatories Meetings were called for either the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency or the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency.

A Canadian Egg Marketing Agency Signatories meeting was held in March. CEMA's Pricing Committee presented its conclusion following the study of alternatives to the present egg pricing system. The Committee recommended the maintenance of the present central pricing system. Signatories adopted a resolution to continue using the existing pricing system, with adjustments to transportation differentials, while CEMA continues to investigate changes or improvements to the system.

CEMA's policy for the allocation of quota above levels specified in the marketing plan was also discussed, and supported by the majority of signatories with the exception being Ontario and Quebec.

Other items discussed included the possibility of a national marketing plan for pullet growers, the public hearing called by the National Farm Products Marketing Council on the cost-of-production for eggs, and the British Columbia action to set a price different from that determined by CEMA for the province.

This concludes the 1982 Annual Report of the Natural Products Marketing Council.